Board are due next year. Taking all these facts into consideration, I wish to know from the Hon. Minister what steps the Government have taken regarding the future of the Malabar District Board and its employees.

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYATCHI : Sir, the Government are aware of the fears that are being entertained by the employees of the Malabar District Board. The Malabar District Board Superior Employees' Association at its general body meeting held at Kozhikode on 21st July 1956 adopted a resolution giving expression to the fears of the employees in this regard. The Association has also requested this Government to forward to the Government of India a representation enclosing a copy of the resolution adopted by the Association. It is proposed to forward the resolution of the Association to the Travancore-Cochin Government and not to the Government of India.

Under Clause 120 of the States Reorganisation Bill, the laws in force in the existing States will continue to be in force until the competent legislature or other competent authority amends or repeals them. The existing laws will then have to be administered by the Government of the new State in the transferred territories till they are repealed or amended.

In view of the provisions in clause 120 of the States Reorganisation Bill, 1956, the Madras District Boards Act, 1920, will continue to be in force in the transferred territory and as a result of this, the District Board, Malabar, will continue to exist and the service conditions of the employees of the district board will also continue to remain unaffected until other provisions are made by the new Kerala State. In view of what has been stated, there seems to be no need for any apprehension in the matter.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : In view of the importance of the statement read by the Hon. Minister (unfortunately, it was not quite clearly understandable), will the Hon. Speaker kindly arrange that copies of the statement be distributed among the Members. It is a very useful statement, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister must do this.

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYATCHI : I will consider this, Sir.

IV.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* STRIKE IN RAMADASS HARIDASS RICE AND OIL MILLS, KOZHIKODE.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Sri K .P. Gopalan that, "This Assembly stands adjourned to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, viz., the strike now going on in the Ramadass Haridass Rice and Oil Mills, Westhill, Kozhikode, since 42 days and the failure of the Government in the same."

27th September 1956] [Mr. Speaker]

The strike has been going on, according to the hon. Member, for 42 days. *Prima facie*, it does not appear to be an urgent matter of public importance. Anyhow I am allowing the hon. Member to explain how this motion is in order.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Sir, there is a factory called Ramadass Haridass Rice and Oil Mills, Westhill. First of all, I must mention here that this is a factory where no labour Acts are respected by the management. I might mention here that there is no works committee, no canteen, no maternity benefit given to the workers, no lay-off period, no muster roll kept by the management to show the 8-hour work a day in the factory, and there are no festival or annual holidays allowed by the management. Sir, the strike started on the 27th August and the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, started conciliation proceedings. The management refused to participate in the conciliation proceedings. On 18th Sepetmber 1956, the Assistant Labour Commissioner Sri Srinivasan came to Kozhikode and tried to conduct conciliation proceedings, but the management refused to attend the conciliation proceedings by the Assistant Commissioner. The Labour Officer sent a report to the Government to conduct the conciliation themselves or send the matter for adjudication. Even after 42 days the matter has not been referred to adjudication nor have the Government interfered in the strike. As a result of this, about two hundred families are starving, and the management is adopting a provocative attitude to bring black-legs into the factory and create a sensation and keep up unrest in the place. So, I feel that this is a matter of urgent public importance. Two hundred families are starving. The management is adopting a provocative attitude. It is the duty of the Government to see that the strike is settled and stern action taken against the management in order to keep the peace in the industry. That is why I consider this matter to be of urgent public importance, and I wish to bring it to the notice of the Hon. Minister in order that he may take expeditious action.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the hon. Member himself has admitted that the Government have not been keeping quiet over this matter. He has also given notice of a short notice question. I believe I would be answering that question in a day or two. Therefore, I would submit that this is not a matter for an adjournment motion. Government have been looking into the matter. 9-50 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER : In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister and in view of the fact that this strike has been going on for many days and the Government are really looking into the matter, I disallow the motion.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : In view of the statement of the Hon. Minister that Government will consider the question and the Government are really considering the question, I withdraw the adjournment motion. I hope Government would take speedy action in the matter.